Stop the flood of perversion

G.T. 3-14-92

I would like to put Jim Valamier ("Gay rights tied to all our rights," March 10) and his aunt at ease concerning the petition circulated by Colorado for Family Values.

This petition does not restrict or withhold any rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. What it does is stop homosexuals and lesbians from getting "special" rights not guaranteed to others.

What the homosexual and lesbian lobby is going for is minority status, so they can impose their lifestyle on others. With minority status, they would become a part of the "quota" system. This would allow them to get jobs in Christian schools, churches, Boy and Girl Scouts, the military, and other organizations that oppose their lifestyle.

Not only that, but these same organizations would no longer be able to freely speak out against perversion and immorality because it would be considered bashing a protected minority. Pastors and Christian school teachers would not be allowed to quote the Bible in the area of sexual perversion.

What this bill does is protect others from a reverse discrimination that would take away the rights of parents and clergy to teach morality and ethics. As a parent I don't want someone with perverse morals teaching my children. I don't want to see the Bible banned as a homophobic tool. That could very well happen if minority status is given to homosexuals and lesbians.

I hope all concerned parents will sign the petition and stop what could become a flood of perversion.

— Carol Hellem
Colorado Springs

Boy Scouts not a private group

G.T. 3-3-92

If I had a son in the Boy Scouts, I would seriously reconsider the citizenship training afforded by that organization after reading the Feb. 22 letter by Barry S. Oswell, a member of the local organization's board of directors, ("No place for gays in Scouts").

Oswell expresses his belief that atheists cannot be moral. This echoes the statement of Boy Scout spokesman Blake Lewis, quoted in the Gazette Telegraph's Feb. 16 article: "If you start allowing someone to say, 'I don't believe in God,' then the question is raised whether or not you believe in this country."

This is absolutely against the intent of our Founding Fathers. The U.S. Constitution expressly states that "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust."

Considering that almost every ongoing war around the world is a conflict between religious factions, (Northern Ireland, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Philippines), it is wrong to equate a belief in God with morality.

I find especially egotistical Oswell's suggestion that the Boy Scouts of America is a voluntary organization, so homosexuals and atheists should find an organization whose values more suit their own. I would suggest to him that their values would be higher than his, if the ignorance and intolerance expressed in his letter are to be taken as a baseline.

Should these rejects form a separate organization, as Oswell urges, would he be willing to give them a portion of the United Way funding the Boy Scouts currently receive?

The Boy Scouts of America is a federally chartered organization, incorporated by the U.S. Congress. As such, it is wrong for its leaders to treat it as a private religious organization, imposing their own prejudices. Instead, they should be teaching and upholding the constitutional concepts of religious liberty and individual rights upon which this country was founded.

— Janet Brazill
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